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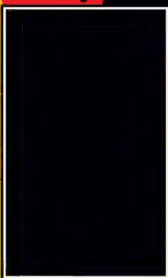
TM

MASTER OF KUNG FU®

THE RETURN OF FU MANCHU!



3332



"Call me Shang-Chi, as my *father* did, when he raised me in the vacuum of his Honan, China retreat. Since then, I have learned that my father is Dr. Fu Manchu, the most insidiously evil man on earth...and that to *honor* him would bring nothing but *dishonor* to the spirit of my *name*."

Stan Lee PRESENTS: **MASTER OF KUNG FU!**®

Featuring supporting characters created by SAX ROHMER

FU MANCHU REBORN

WARRIORS OF THE **GOLDEN DAWN**

PART
1

THE **PHOENIX** AND THE **SNAKE**



**FROM THE JOURNAL
OF FU MANCHU:**

ENLIGHTENMENT AND ILLUMINATION HAVE BEEN AT A DARK STANDSTILL FOR TOO LONG. MYSTICISM HAS LARGELY FAILED (TOO MANY ARE BLIND), AS HAS SCIENCE (TOO MANY WITH WIDE EYES), AND SO IT IS TIME TO FORGE A NEW PATH COMBINING ELEMENTS OF ALL THE OLD WAYS, WELL TROD IN SECRECY...

LG591

**DOUG
MOENCH**
WRITER

**MIKE
ZECK**
PENCILER

**GENE
DAY**
INKER

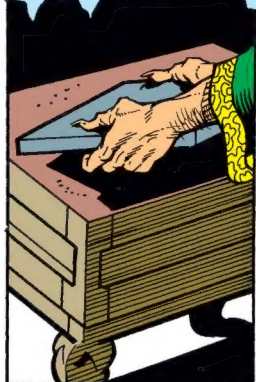
DIANA ALBERS, LETTERER
BENJAMIN SEAN, COLORIST

**ROGER
STERN**
EDITOR

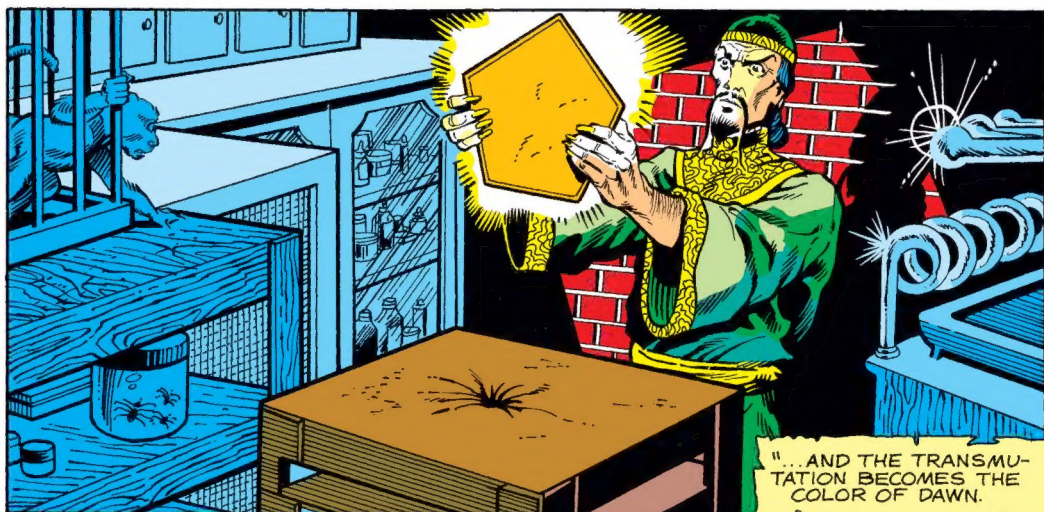
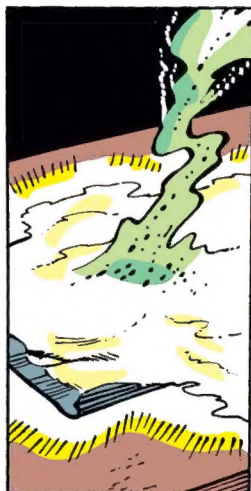
**JIM
SHOOTER**
ED-IN-CHIEF

ONE:

"LEAD IS THE
COLOR OF FILTH."

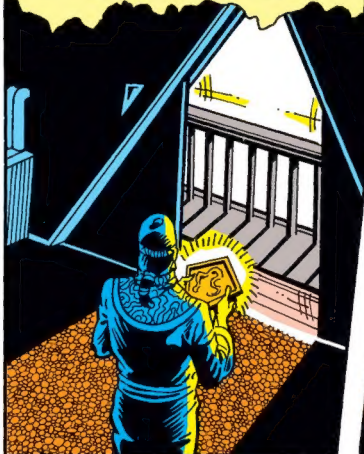


"BUT THE ARCANES
ESSENCE PURIFIES..."

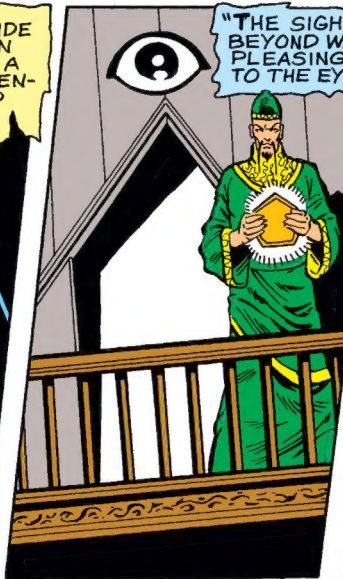


"...AND THE TRANSMU-
TATION BECOMES THE
COLOR OF DAWN."

"THE SECRET PORTAL SLID WIDE AT MY APPROACH, THE GOLDEN GIFT OF ALCHEMY HELD LIKE A BRIGHT BEACON, AND A TREMENDOUS RUSH OF SOUND FILLED MY WORK CHAMBER.

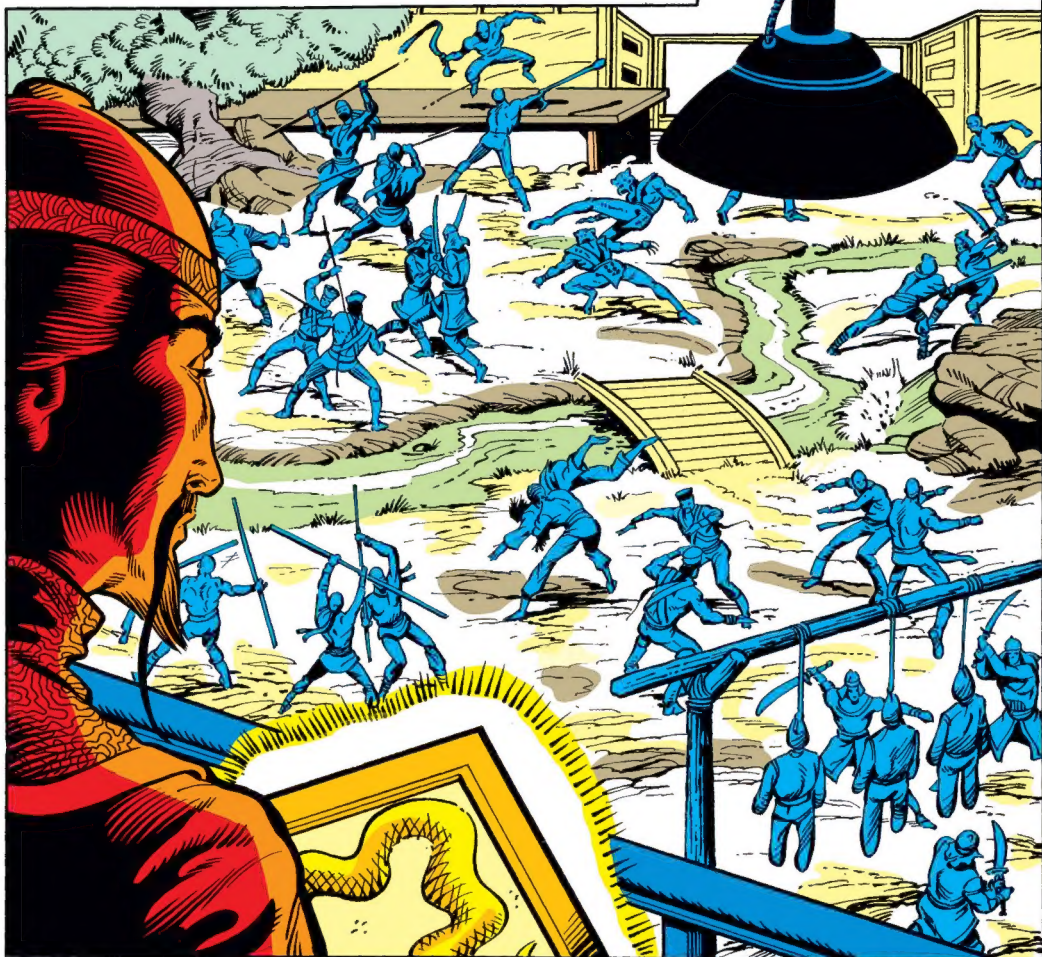


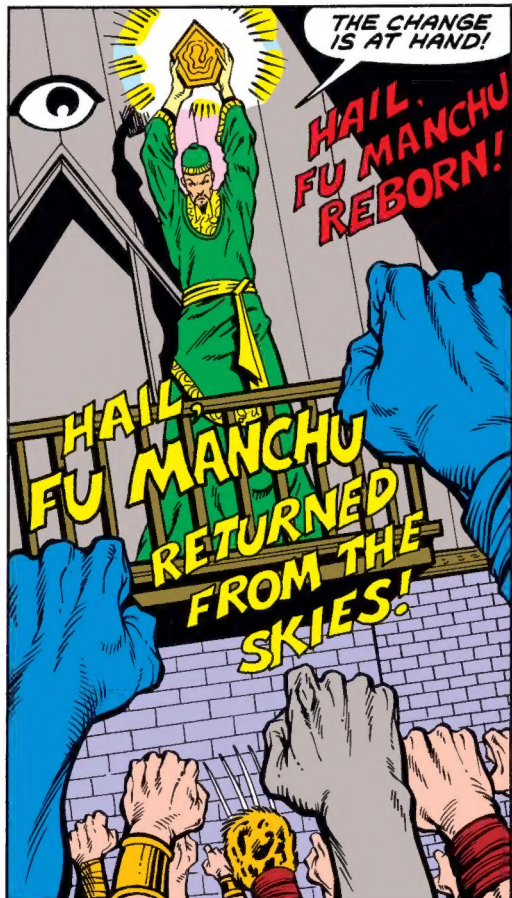
"THE SIGHT BEYOND WAS PLEASING TO THE EYE...

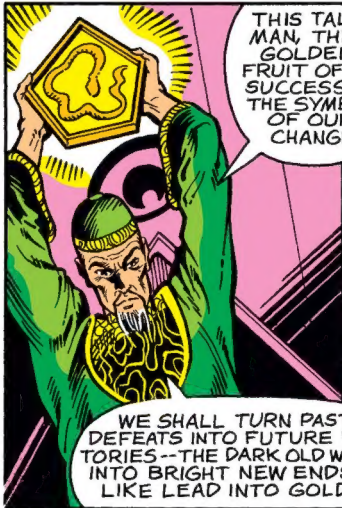


"...FOR THEIR PROGRESS WAS INDEED MARKED. LEGIONS OF THE PAST, ONCE WARRIOR ENEMIES ALL, NOW GATHERED UNDER THE SECRET BANNER OF A COMMON LORD AND MASTER.

"IN UNISON, BUT NOT YET UNITED, THEIR NOISE WAS A WEIGHT OF LEAD UPON THE EAR.







THIS TALISMAN, THE GOLDEN FRUIT OF MY SUCCESS, IS THE SYMBOL OF OUR CHANGE!

WE SHALL TURN PAST DEFEATS INTO FUTURE VICTORIES--THE DARK OLD WAYS INTO BRIGHT NEW ENDS--LIKE LEAD INTO GOLD!



HEAR ME, SI-FAN!



HEAR ME, PHANSIGARS!



HEAR ME, THUGGEES!



HEAR ME, HASHISHIN!



HEAR ME, TEMPLARS!



HEAR ME, LEOPARD CULT!
HEAR ME, LIGHT-SEEKERS!

HEAR ME, FOLLOWERS OF THE LEFT-HAND PATH AND THE THREE-CORNERED SIGHT AND THE TWENTY-THIRD SECT! THE CHANGE IS NOW!

THE OLD WAYS ARE NOW COMBINED AND UNITED INTO THE NEW! YOU ARE NOW BROTHERS, ALL OF YOU--ALL MEMBERS OF THE ORDER OF THE GOLDEN DAWN!!



SCOTLAND...

--SO THE LEOPARD CULT'S GOT BOTH THE INFO PACKET AND NOW SMITH. I DON'T BELIEVE IT...



IT WAS TO BE EXPECTED, CLIVE. IF THEY KNEW ENOUGH TO LAY IN WAIT FOR YOU CHAPS AT THE MUSEUM, THEY'D KNOW THE REST--THAT THE PACKET WAS STASHED BEHIND THE TAPESTRY.

BUT THE QUESTION STILL REMAINS, LEES: **HOW** DID THEY KNOW?



YES...MY RIDDLE WAS DESIGNED TO HAVE MEANING FOR ONLY TWO PEOPLE--NAV-LAND SMITH AND ME.

AND PETRIE AND HIS WIFE KARAMENAH.

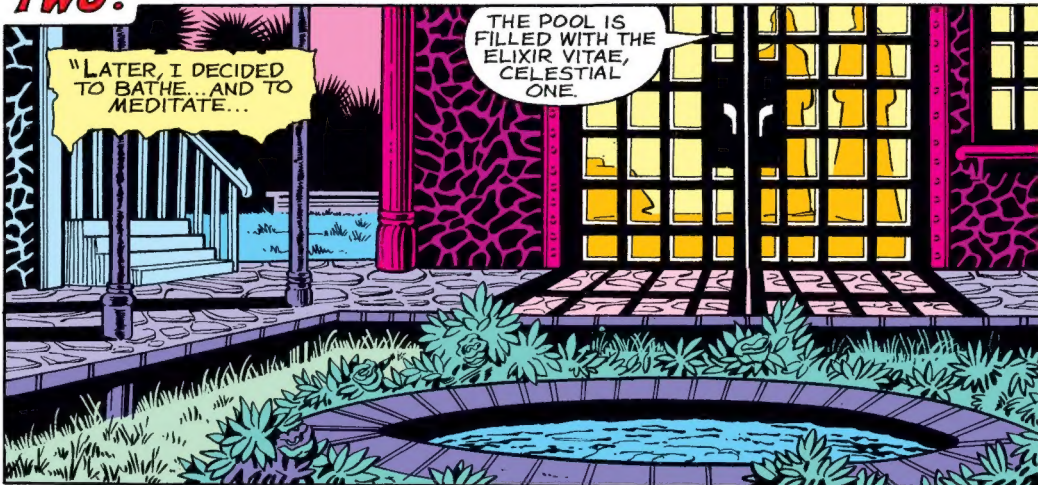


WELL, YES, BUT KARAMENAH HAS LONG BEEN DEAD, AND PETRIE IS... AH, "INCAPACITATED," IS HE NOT?

YOU MIGHT SAY THAT.

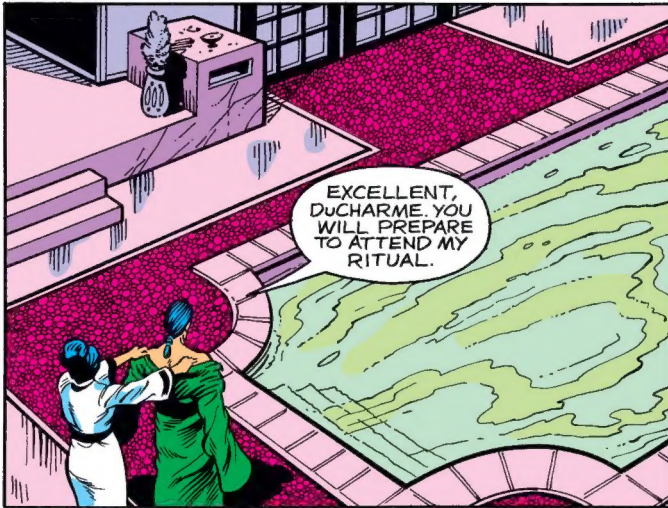
ANYWAY, IT'S CINCHED, AIN'T IT? THE LEOPARD-CLOWNS KIDNAPED SIR DENIS AND THEY WORK FOR FU AND FU'S IN SOUTH AMERICA. SO WE'RE OFF TO SOUTH AMERICA. BUT I WONDER WHY FU'S DOWN THERE, OF ALL PLACES?

TWO:

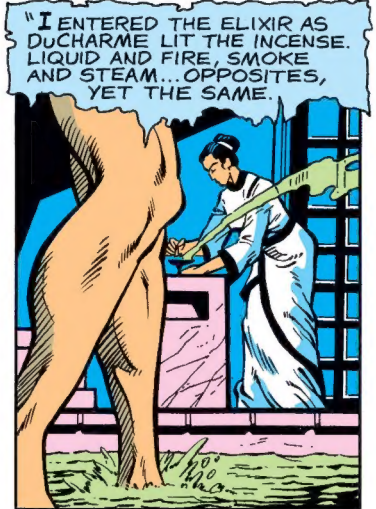


"LATER, I DECIDED TO BATHE...AND TO MEDITATE..."

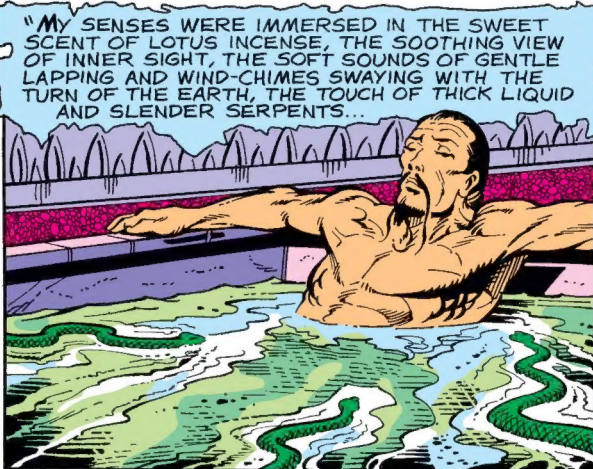
THE POOL IS FILLED WITH THE ELIXIR VITAE, CELESTIAL ONE.



EXCELLENT, DUCHARME. YOU WILL PREPARE TO ATTEND MY RITUAL.



"I ENTERED THE ELIXIR AS DUCHARME LIT THE INCENSE. LIQUID AND FIRE, SMOKE AND STEAM... OPPOSITES, YET THE SAME."



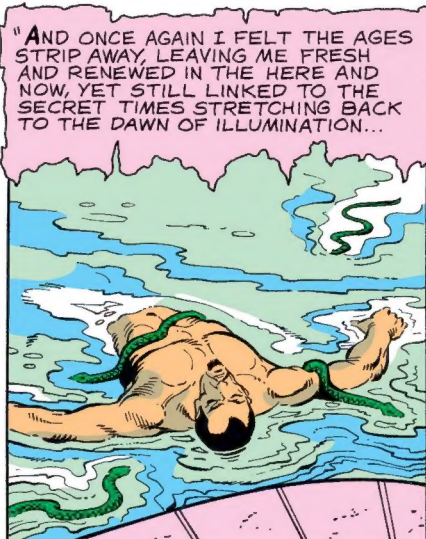
"MY SENSES WERE IMMERSSED IN THE SWEET SCENT OF LOTUS INCENSE, THE SOOTHING VIEW OF INNER SIGHT, THE SOFT SOUNDS OF GENTLE LAPPING AND WIND-CHIMES SWAYING WITH THE TURN OF THE EARTH, THE TOUCH OF THICK LIQUID AND SLENDER SERPENTS..."



THE INNER ELIXIR, CELESTIAL ONE.



"... AND THE WARM TASTE OF IMMORTALITY, THE SERUM OF ETERNAL LIFE..."



"AND ONCE AGAIN I FELT THE AGES STRIP AWAY, LEAVING ME FRESH AND RENEWED IN THE HERE AND NOW, YET STILL LINKED TO THE SECRET TIMES STRETCHING BACK TO THE DAWN OF ILLUMINATION..."

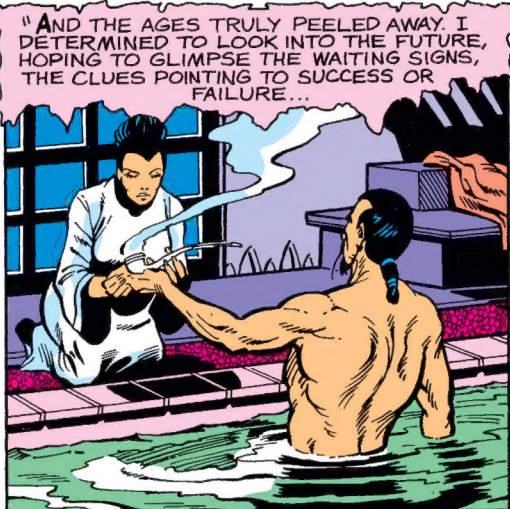


THE PIPE, CELESTIAL ONE.

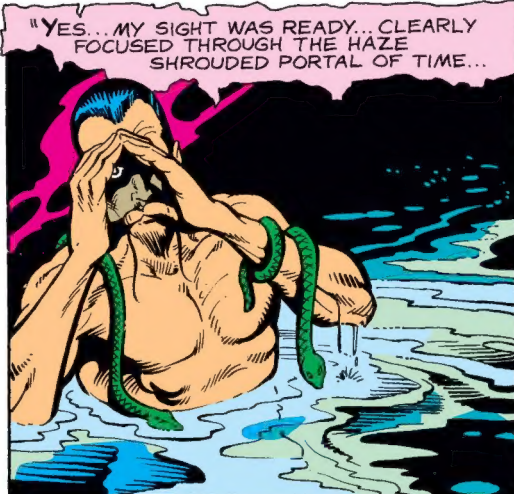
"I SMOKED... THE BITTER TASTE OF SWEET DREAMS.



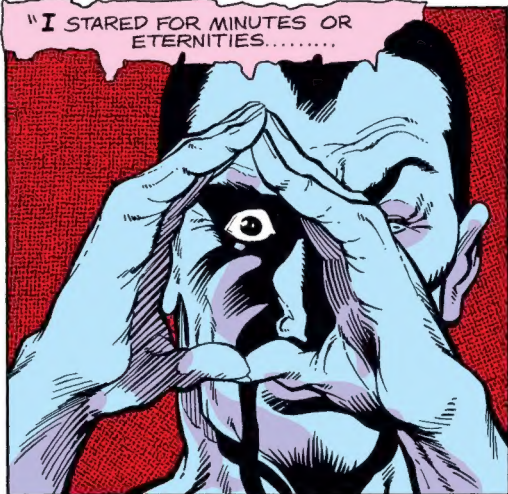
"AND THE AGES TRULY PEELED AWAY. I DETERMINED TO LOOK INTO THE FUTURE, HOPING TO GLIMPSE THE WAITING SIGNS, THE CLUES POINTING TO SUCCESS OR FAILURE...



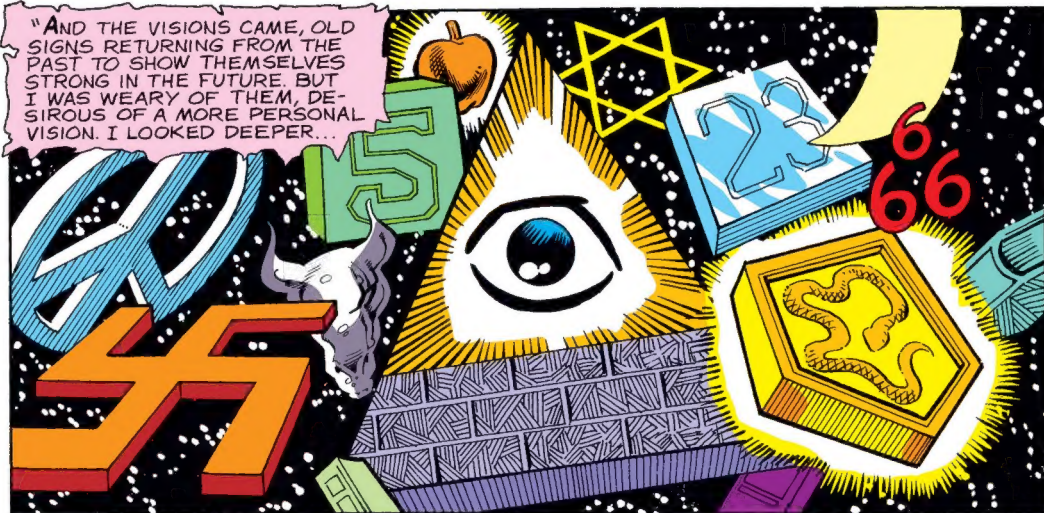
"YES... MY SIGHT WAS READY... CLEARLY FOCUSED THROUGH THE HAZE SHROUDED PORTAL OF TIME...



"I STARED FOR MINUTES OR ETERNITIES.....



"AND THE VISIONS CAME, OLD SIGNS RETURNING FROM THE PAST TO SHOW THEMSELVES STRONG IN THE FUTURE. BUT I WAS WEARY OF THEM, DESIROUS OF A MORE PERSONAL VISION. I LOOKED DEEPER...



"AND THEN, I SAW IT! BLAZING BRIGHTLY! MY FINAL TRIUMPH-- LEADING THE FOUR HORSEMEN TO THE SKY-SWEPT DESTRUCTION OF THE VILE PRESENT, Mired IN ITS FOUL WESTERN DECADENCE..."



"AND, LATER, THE CREATION OF THE FATED NEW FROM THE GLORIOUS OLD. THE SIGNS WERE CLEAR! THIS TIME I WOULD SUCCEED!"



"AND YET... THERE WAS ANOTHER SIGN, POSING ONE SMALL FACTOR FOR DEFEAT AGAINST MY ALMOST CERTAIN VICTORY..."



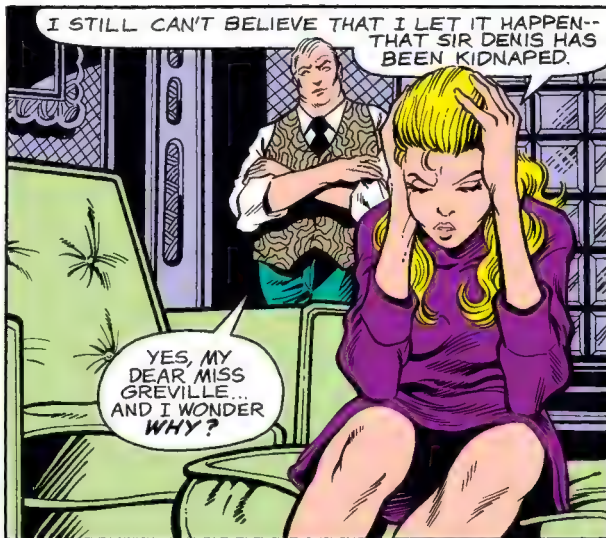
"A BABY, THE SON BORN OF MY LOINS, 20 YEARS IN THE PAST, DURING THE LONG TIME OF REST AND PREPARATION. STRANGE... THAT THE ONLY ONE WHO MIGHT TURN ALL MY GOALS TO ASH--"



"--SHOULD HAVE BEEN BORN IN THE MIDST OF THEIR PREPARATIONS."



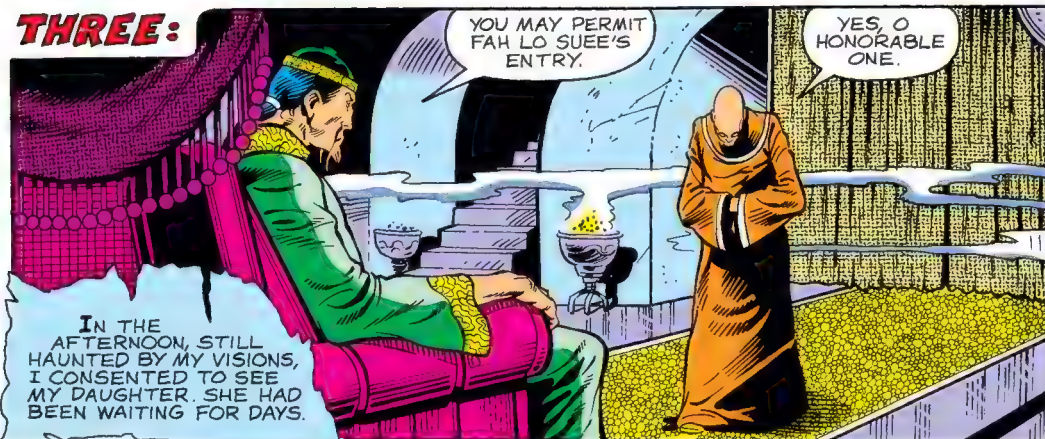
"THE VISIONS DID NOT SOOTHE ME. A COLD FURY SEEMED TO BURN FROM MY PORES. THE SERPENTS SLID FROM MY SKIN, AND SILENTLY, SLICKLY FLED.



I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE THAT I LET IT HAPPEN-- THAT SIR DENIS HAS BEEN KIDNAPED.

YES, MY DEAR MISS GREVILLE... AND I WONDER WHY?

THREE:



YOU MAY PERMIT FAH LO SUEE'S ENTRY.

YES, O HONORABLE ONE.

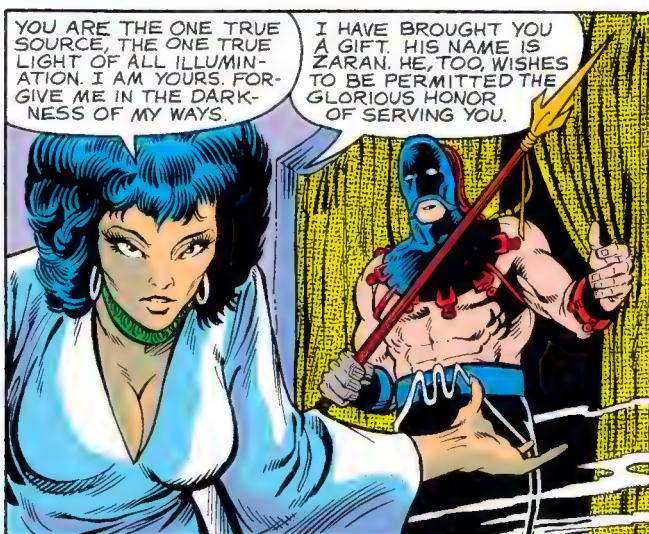
IN THE AFTERNOON, STILL HAUNTED BY MY VISIONS, I CONSENTED TO SEE MY DAUGHTER. SHE HAD BEEN WAITING FOR DAYS.



SO, MY DAUGHTER, YOU HAVE FAILED ON YOUR OWN--

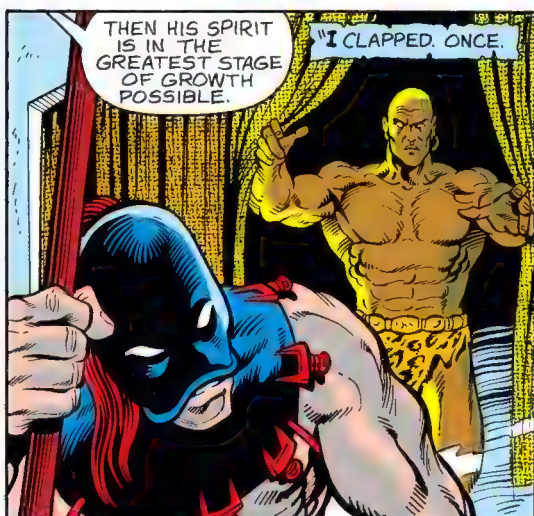
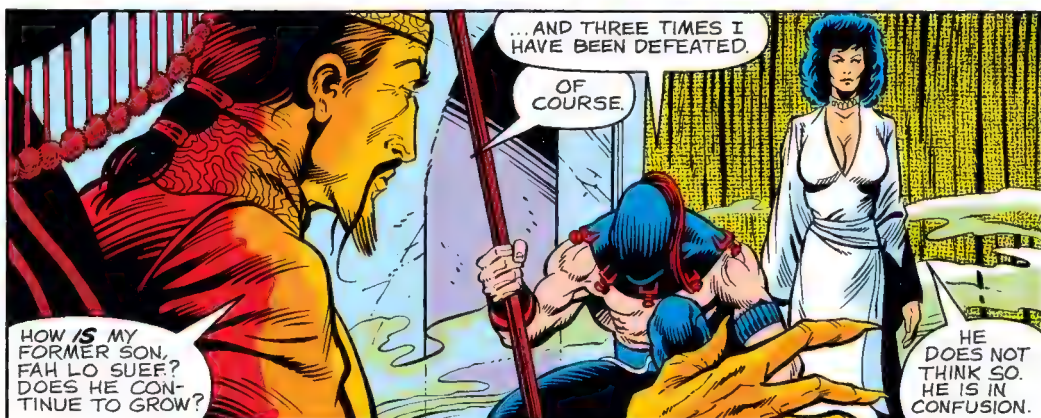
--AND NOW YOU BEG TO EMBRACE THE FOLD YOU HAVE ATTEMPTED TO DESTROY.

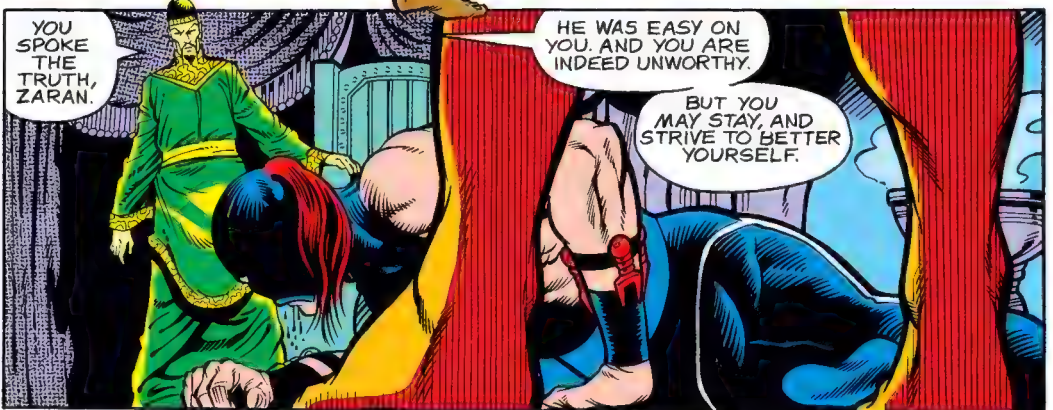
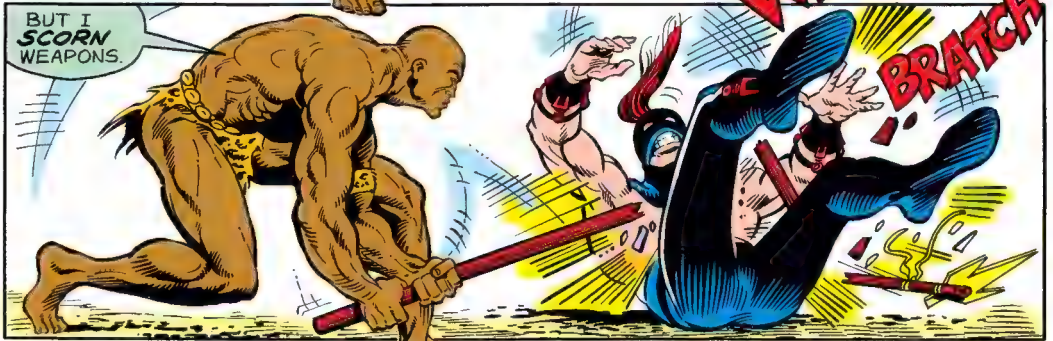
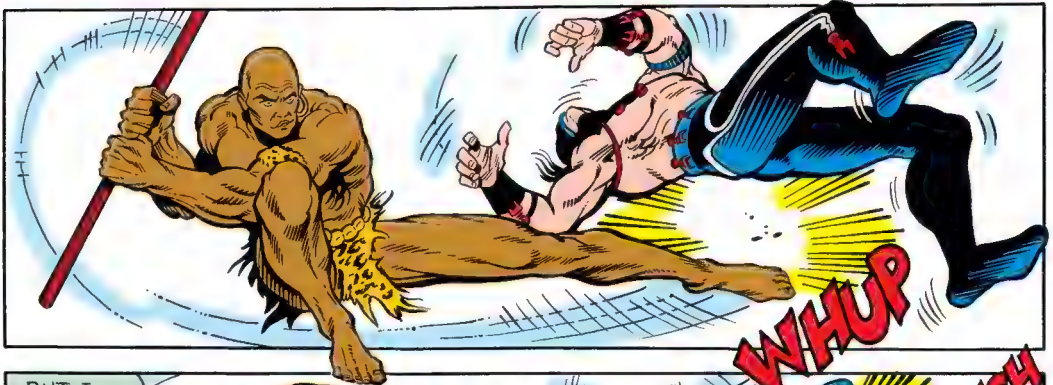
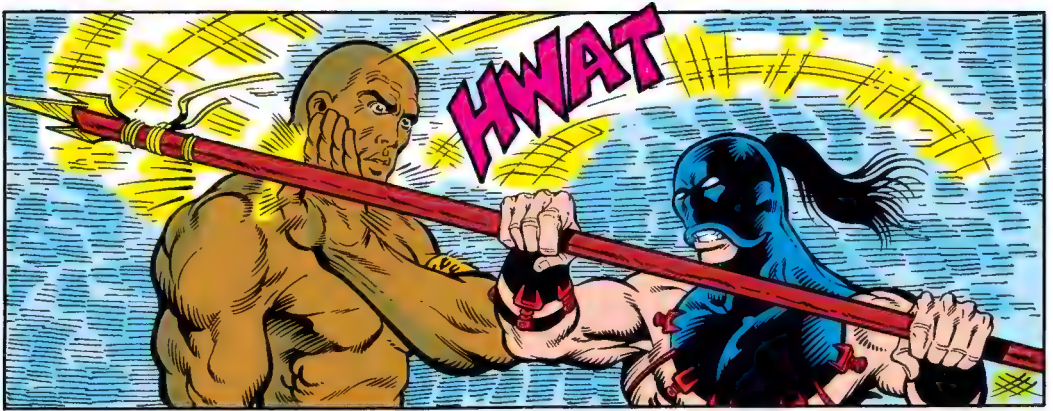
YES, CELESTIAL FATHER, IF YOU WILL BUT PARDON MY BASE TREACHERY.



YOU ARE THE ONE TRUE SOURCE, THE ONE TRUE LIGHT OF ALL ILLUMINATION. I AM YOURS. FORGIVE ME IN THE DARKNESS OF MY WAYS.

I HAVE BROUGHT YOU A GIFT. HIS NAME IS ZARAN. HE, TOO, WISHES TO BE PERMITTED THE GLORIOUS HONOR OF SERVING YOU.







SHANG?

YES,
LEIKO?

I...



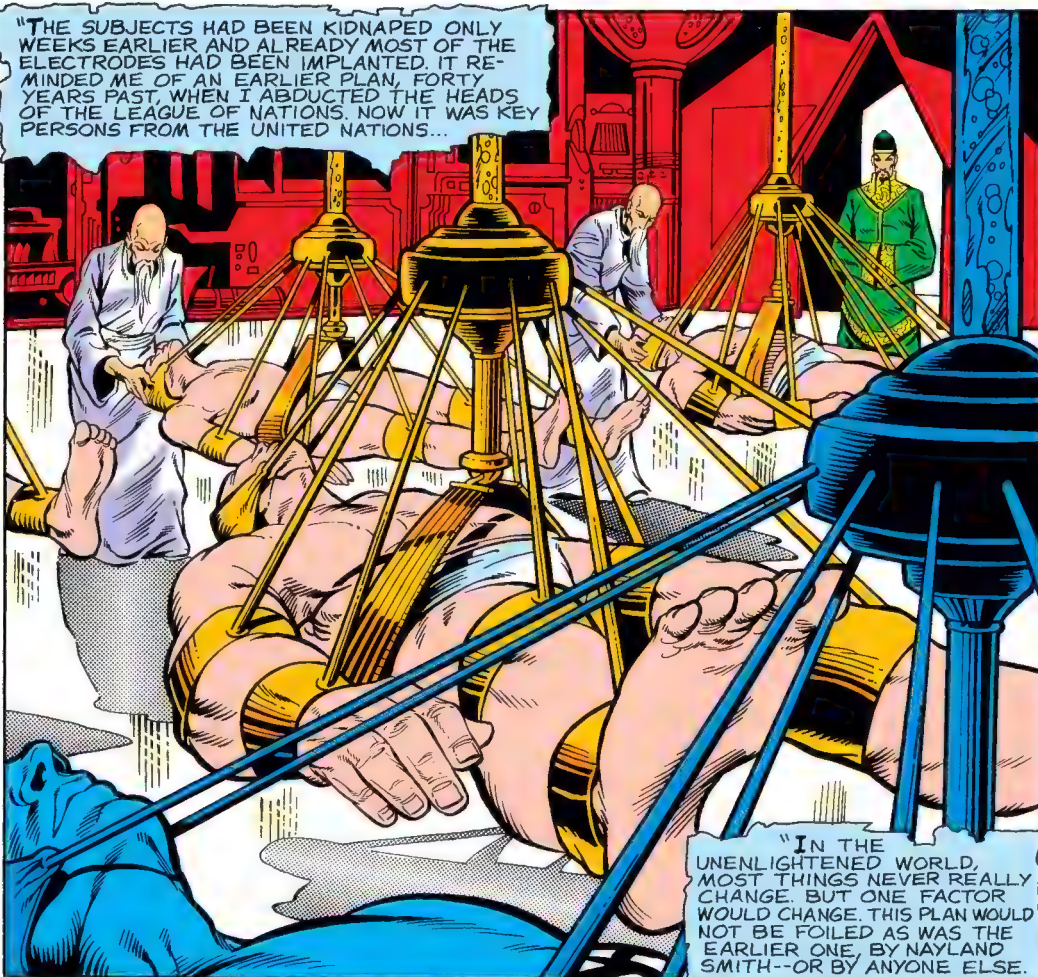
I WONDER
WHY... WE EVER
WONDER WHY.

FOUR:

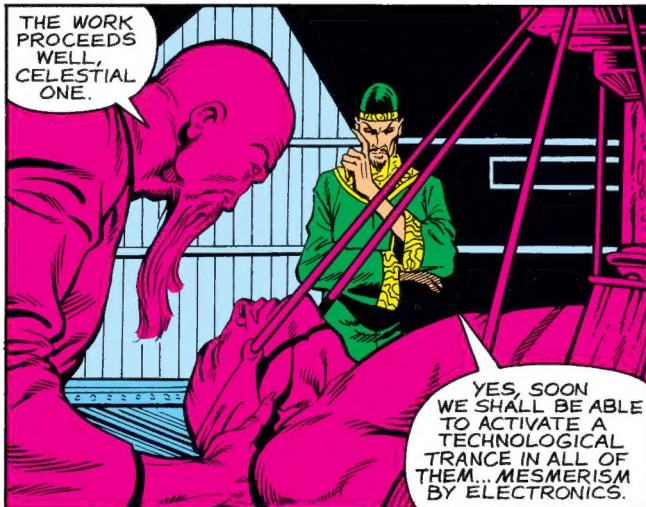
"NEAR EVENING, I INSPECTED
THE WORK OF MY SCIENTIST-
SAVANTS. THE PROGRESS
WAS EXCELLENT."



"THE SUBJECTS HAD BEEN KIDNAPED ONLY
WEEKS EARLIER AND ALREADY MOST OF THE
ELECTRODES HAD BEEN IMPLANTED. IT RE-
MINDED ME OF AN EARLIER PLAN, FORTY
YEARS PAST, WHEN I ABDUCTED THE HEADS
OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS. NOW IT WAS KEY
PERSONS FROM THE UNITED NATIONS..."

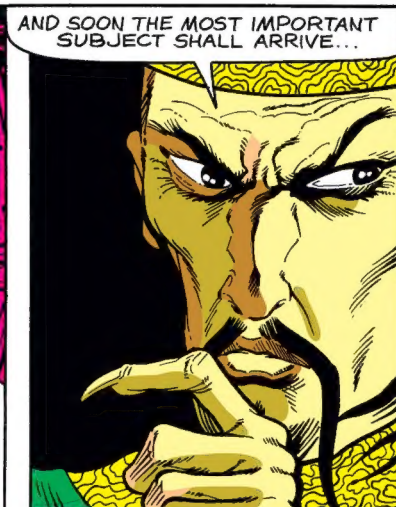


"IN THE
UNENLIGHTENED WORLD,
MOST THINGS NEVER REALLY
CHANGE. BUT ONE FACTOR
WOULD CHANGE. THIS PLAN WOULD
NOT BE FOILED AS WAS THE
EARLIER ONE, BY NAYLAND
SMITH--OR BY ANYONE ELSE."

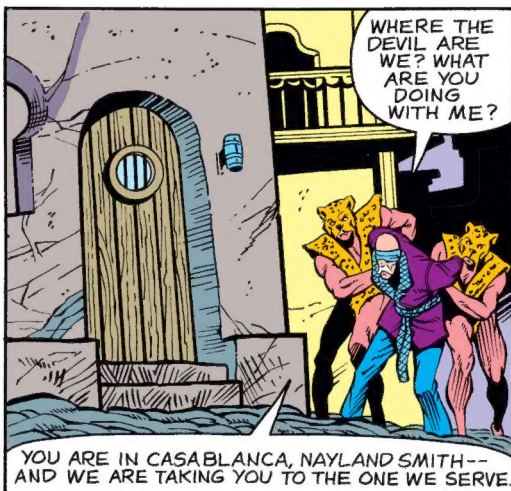


THE WORK PROCEEDS WELL, CELESTIAL ONE.

YES, SOON WE SHALL BE ABLE TO ACTIVATE A TECHNOLOGICAL TRANCE IN ALL OF THEM... MESMERISM BY ELECTRONICS.



AND SOON THE MOST IMPORTANT SUBJECT SHALL ARRIVE...



WHERE THE DEVIL ARE WE? WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH ME?

YOU ARE IN CASABLANCA, NAYLAND SMITH-- AND WE ARE TAKING YOU TO THE ONE WE SERVE.



THE ONE YOU SERVE--? BUT WHO IS--EH?

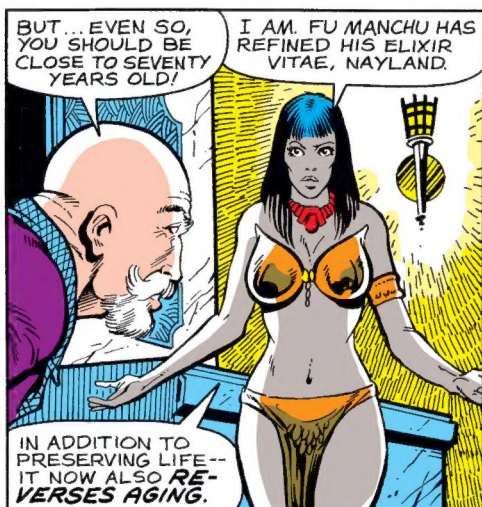


GOOD LORD!

I... I DON'T BELIEVE IT! KARAMENAH!! BUT YOU... YOU DIED!



I SEEMED TO DIE, NAYLAND SMITH...



BUT... EVEN SO, YOU SHOULD BE CLOSE TO SEVENTY YEARS OLD!

I AM. FU MANCHU HAS REFINED HIS ELIXIR VITAE, NAYLAND.

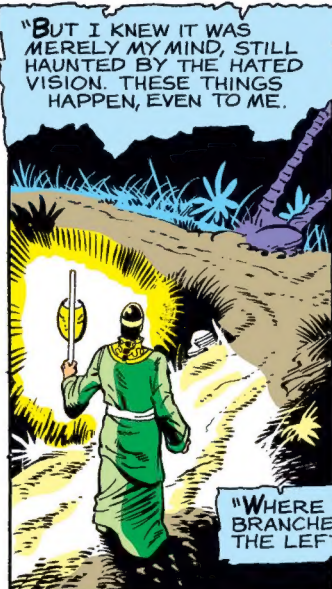
IN ADDITION TO PRESERVING LIFE-- IT NOW ALSO REVERSES AGING.

FIVE:

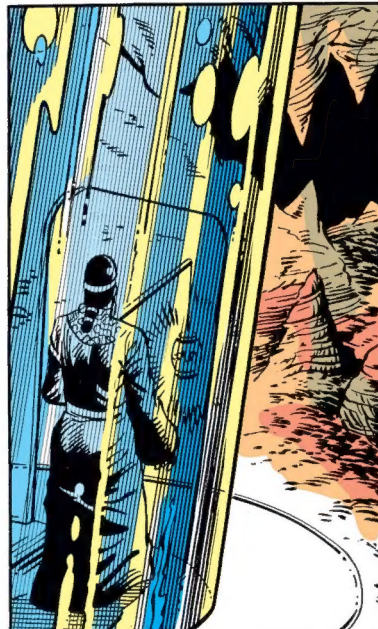
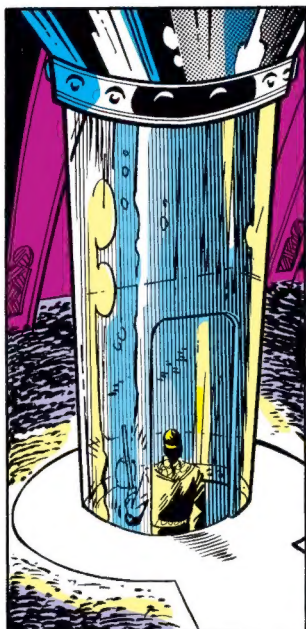
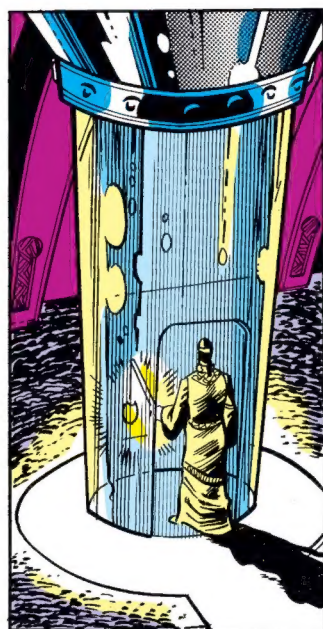
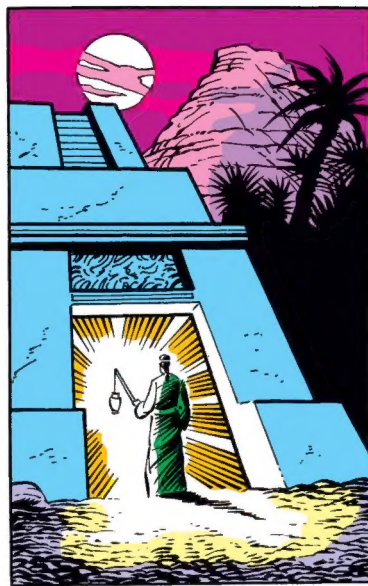
"AT MIDNIGHT, THINKING OF THE GOLDEN DAWN, I ENTERED THE JUNGLE... AND HEARD SMALL BABIES CRYING IN THE DARK."

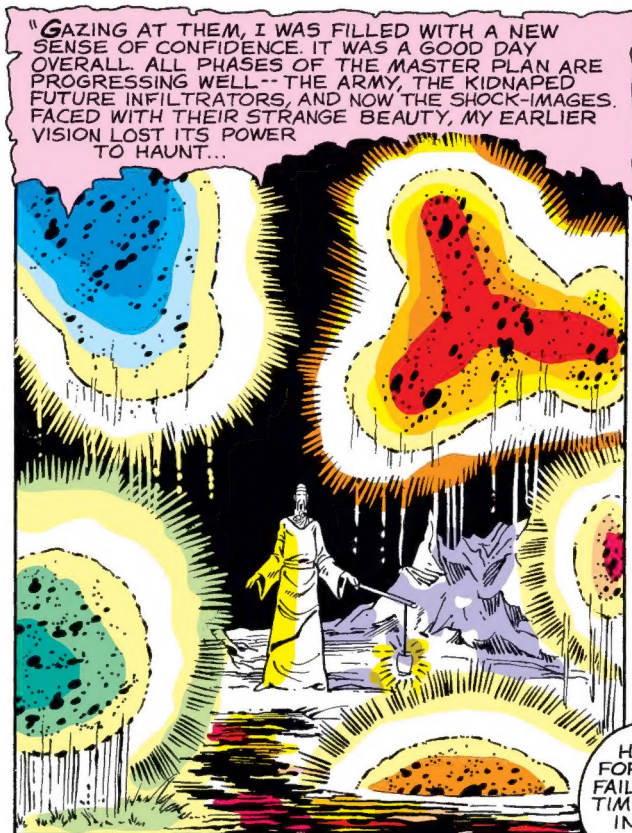
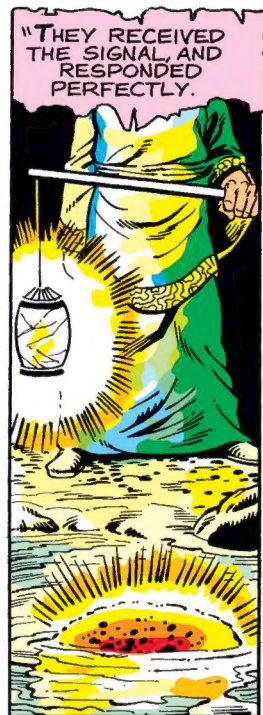
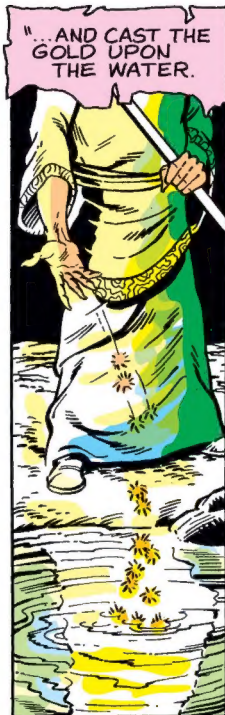
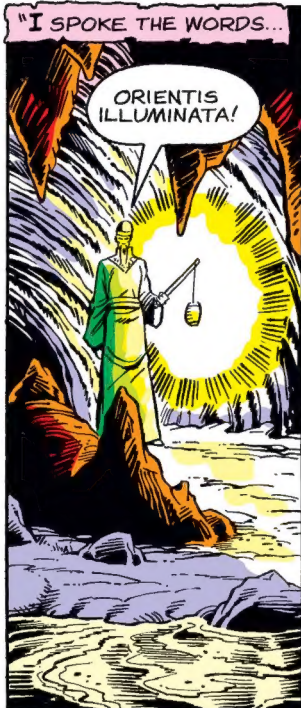


"BUT I KNEW IT WAS MERELY MY MIND, STILL HAUNTED BY THE HATED VISION. THESE THINGS HAPPEN, EVEN TO ME."

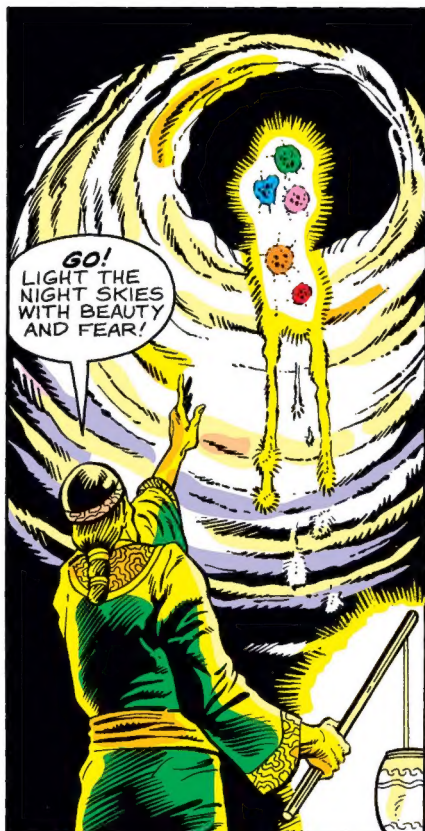


"WHERE THE WAY BRANCHED, I TOOK THE LEFT-HAND PATH..."

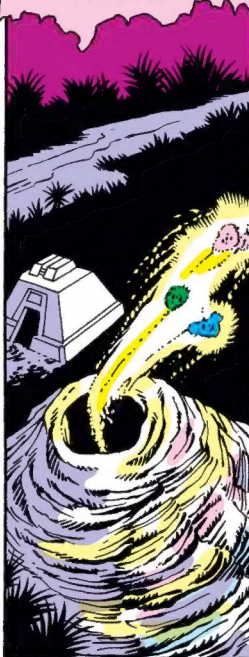




ENLIGHTENMENT AND ILLUMINATION HAVE BEEN AT A DARK STANDSTILL FOR TOO LONG. MYSTICISM HAS LARGELY FAILED, AS HAS SCIENCE. AND SO IT IS TIME TO FORGE A NEW PATH COMBINING ELEMENTS OF THE OLD WAYS.



"THEY LEFT A BEAUTIFUL, SHOCKING SIGHT. YES, MY VISION **HAD** TO BE WRONG I KNEW IT THEN--I **WOULD** TRIUMPH! THERE WERE NO MORE DOUBTS!"



"THIS TIME, DR. FU MANCHU WILL NOT BE DENIED! NOTHING CAN STOP ME! IN THE FACE OF ALL MY PLANNING, ALL MY MIGHT, EVEN MY FORMER SON--AND A THOUSAND LIKE HIM--SHALL WITHER LIKE BLADES OF GRASS UNDER THE SCORCHING SUN!"

